

Feb. 5, 2006

FCC

Re: 05-311

Dear Madam or Sir:

I'm writing to express my support for public access TV, also known as PEG channels. I'm writing as a former producer for Seattle access and as a viewer of BCAT in Brooklyn, NY. I am also technical director of Democracy Now!, a TV show seen on numerous access stations across the United States.

PEG TV offers a unique and vital resource in the U.S. In most communities, the noncommercial PEG TV channels now deliver more original locally-made shows than all the commercial television stations combined. They offer an opportunity for the community to tell its own stories and to focus on the issues it considers compelling and important.

Because they are inherently local, programming on these channels reflect the diversity of their communities. They provide noncommercial programming for seniors, for the disabled, for youth, as well as multi-lingual programming for ethnic communities, and others often neglected by the commercial media.

Furthermore, PEG provides the only coverage of local government in many communities. So if PEG channels are lost, we will also lose an opportunity for citizens to stay informed about local government issues.

PEG and local public access centers also provide valuable training: they are often the only means by which individuals and non-profit organizations can freely or affordably access the tools and training to produce their own programming and to express their own point-of-view through the media. This has become even more important with media conglomeration in recent years.

PEG and access channels are thus enrich our democracy in several ways. They allow us to celebrate our diversity and to express and inform ourselves. Let us protect this precious resource.

Thank you.

Angela Alston

Filmmaker and Technical Director for Democracy Now!

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